

Answer Sheet

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center

Activity Sheet - Upper Elementary

DISPLAY AREA

Pick a display - *Wetlands, Cottonwood Forest, or Prairie.*

1. Which display (habitat) did you chose? Why? Answer will vary
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Imagine if you were in this habitat,

2. List 4 sounds that you would hear?

1. birds chirping 2. leaves moving 3. bug sounds 4. ducks quacking, etc.

3. List 4 things that you might smell?

1. leaves 2. grass 3. wildflowers 4. decaying things, etc.

4. What other wildlife (not seen in the display) might you find in this habitat?

Depends on habitat, use your imagination

Striking It Rich

1. Why are people coming to this area? Gold mining

2. List three tools or supplies used by miners. What were they used for?

1. shovel, drifting pick, candle lantern, power keg, matches,

2. blasting fuse, mortar and pestle. (mercury - not shown in display)

3. 7 possible answers

Cutting the Tall Timber

1. Why did people need timber? Supports and beams in mine shafts, homes, and stores.

2. List two tools used to cut down trees. How did they work?

1. two-man crosscut saw, log chain, whetstone, ax, circular saw and mandrel.

2. 5 possible answers

Bustin' the Prairie Sod

1. What is meant by "bustin' the prairie sod"? Plowing the soil
2. Draw a picture of an animal that lives in the prairie. Why does it live on the prairie?
Answers and drawing will vary. Food, shelter, space, adaptations, etc.

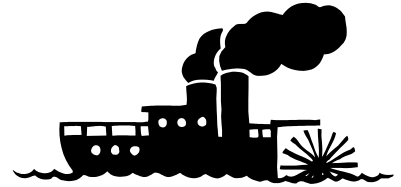
3. Look at the map next to this display, name 1 of the 6 states that the Missouri River flows through besides Nebraska or Iowa. Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, or Montana.
4. How did the Missouri River help people get to Montana in 1865? Travel route. No roads, no railroads, most efficient way of transportation to the Montana goldfields.

Towns: Making Nowhere Somewhere

1. What do you think is in this crate? Goods for mining, farming, shopkeepers, etc. Tools, house wares, canned food, bottled food, beverages, clothing, etc.

CARGO AREA

The *Bertrand* was a steamboat used to carry cargo and people up and down the Missouri River. This cargo supplied all of the merchandise a store in Montana would sell during an entire year. Imagine the *Bertrand* as a "Wal-Mart on the water".



Find three artifacts from the cargo for each category below. For each artifact record a similarity and difference for a similar item that you would find in your home today.

Household items and tools

Planes, files, wrenches, hatchets, screwdrivers, bits, plastering trowels, chisels, leather working tools. Shovels, picks, anvils spigots, coffee grinders griddles, waffle iron, corkscrews. Doorknobs, padlocks, keys, scales, drawer pulls, matches, pipes, ink, pencils, combs, pocket knives, cowbells, lamps (oil), candles.

Similarity/Differences

Many of these items are the same or similar, today: although some are much more sophisticated. Many of today's household items are made of different materials, i.e. plastic.

Food items

Brand cocktails, (stomach) bitter, champagne, ales, wines, sardines, oysters, gooseberries, yeast, ginger, strawberries, brandied peaches, lemonade, peanuts, catsup, mustard, lemon syrup, honey, jelly, tomatoes, pickles, peppers, pepper sauce.

Similarity/Differences

Many of these items are the same, or similar, today: although some are much more sophisticated. Methods of processing and packaging has changed.

Clothing items

Boots, shoes, shoelaces, felt hats, coats socks, trousers, shirts, neckties women's hats, buttons, sewing supplies, yard goods, ice skates, blankets.

Similarity/Differences

Some of these item are the same or similar, today. However, major changes have been made in materials used and method of construction, (Also, there are major differences in styles, and attitudes toward clothing).

If you had only one crate to bring on a riverboat trip to Montana, what would you bring?

Answers will vary

OBSERVATION AREA



1. List wildlife or evidence of wildlife (tracks and nests) you notice while looking out at the refuge. Turtles, fish, deer, coyote, geese, ducks, and other various birds. Bird's nest, woodpecker holes, wood duck house (box), raccoon tracks, deer tracks, coyote tracks, beaver cuttings. (Note: animal signs depend on the time of year, weather conditions, etc.)

2. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is a home (or habitat) for wildlife. List 4 plants or animals that you think live on the refuge. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, skunk, eastern cottontail (rabbit), painted turtle, Canada Goose, butterflies, carp, catfish, bats, raccoon, badger, fox, beaver, squirrel, mice, snakes, toads, frogs, 240 species of birds, etc.

3. Looking out the windows, what changes can you see that people have made to this area? List as many as you can see. Why have they made these changes?
Roads, cars, buildings, trains, pilings in the water (historically used to stop bank erosion on the river), wood duck box, screen around trees to prevent beaver damage, channelization of Missouri River and formation of DeSoto Lake (dikes), increased farmland, less forested area, etc.

4. Why is DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge important to you?

Answers will vary

Post-site activity:

Write a story, poem, or song or draw a picture, cartoon, or caricature about your experience at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.